

# **The Rationales**

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An Australian is someone who when asked Can you play the piano? says Dunno I never tried.

In the 19th century Australia imported 700,000 pianos.

## **Rationale for an Australian Experimental Arts Group:**

Elsie Phar Lap Davis has been making up songs in pretend French for the senior cits for years and every secondary school student in Australia has done some French and what we get is semioticians who believe the only way to criticize a Bowie album is to buy it.

10% of the Australian population are Greek and what we get is imitation Japanese and what the Japs want is nasalisation and magpies.

In the 60s the Japanese offered us \$1m each to piss off. To leave the bloody country. We didn't because we have a culture based on 'making do' and 'making sense'. Oz culture is about orchestrating competence. Roberts, Grainger and Brennan. Zeitgeist was a flurry in this direction but the Germans and Americans can't do it because they come from a literary world. American English is based on German. It's business English. Australian English is based on Irish. It's an aural language. In Australia there is a popular art form called 'timing'. It pervades everything from horse races to bushfires. In Europe the most sophisticated high-art understanding of 'timing' is the waltz. In America it's the backbeat. The only other culture of 'timing' is the Yiddish stand-up comic. Yiddish is to German as Australian is to English. The light is different in Australia. The acoustics are different. The sense is different. Ripley's Believe It Or Not rang and asked if lyrebirds could whistle Bach cantatas. True dinks.

## **Rationale for Composer and Writer Apprenticeships:**

In April 79 Hong Kong ceased the trading of Poetry on the Futures Market. It had been trading in Australia for a week. Language as mild clairvoyance. There is no scientific explanation of language. There may be one for data. Statements. But propositions, arguments? No way. That you turned right ten seconds after I said turn right is not explainable scientifically. The future is only bloody market research for IBM and General Electric coz stats is stuck, fait accompli has been put out to grass n information which has been playing dress ups n tryin t pass itself off as language cant even raise a stutter. Or as someone said on th bus th other day, told y so. Youre stuffed. Not coz y wrong but coz y lookin in th wrong direction. We got credit by th balls. We been on conceptual strike since th year dot. Positivism is just a crank religion. We dont need to feel good. N using artificial languages as a model, sucks, coz th reason Australia is a nation of gamblers is coz y dont prove nothin by winning cept y know what a number is n most thumb suckers got one so knowin how to spell please doesnt argue for a purchase on reality. Its a vindictive apology. Profit is th sense you make when youre not making sense. Grammar is a monument to th heroics of knowing better. Two bob each way. The National Language Policy is some sorta banker tryin t big note shares in tautologies. Me too. Language is not just a slogan of th righteous boss and we have more potent weapons than merely being wrong. So shut th fuck up. Conjugate bribery. We are examples. A poor mans metaphor. So whats th action, god knows. Fuck god. We are th bloody words. Gooseing proverbs outa tea leaves t tell th time is a lousy way t pay th rent so if y want logic t wait up let lone set th table for th news y got another think coming. Second thoughts is a ptend misdemeanor floggin um ah on th steps of/to copy con. We know the address coz we dont live here anymore. Theres no irony in more. Anymore. Right. Turn.

## **Rationale for the Deployment of Gossips:**

The State of Victoria refused to recognize Bell's patent of the phone. Jus y make facts same ways y do a room so blue n chooks go thru time arseways coz up is jus a fart t any system n words a packet full a gunnas that rhyme ok. I jus knew it. Th lines busted. a no worries coz is boss so count me in screwin maybes inta grammars too much like a sin. Y had romantic chain letters n then y get high camp romantic bit a minimalism n recession n y got suburban romantic but coz Hegel was only translated into French after World War 2 they doin shoddy homework n call it semiotic. Thats how mediocre become a art (you know, like economics. Now, jus coz John Maynard Keynes took the night ferry to Ostend coz th roulette table didn have no zero, thats no Lysenko remained head of the Soviet Academy of Sciences til th mid 1960s.) Trojan horse languages may indeed wipe out their own etymologies t score but they about as critical as dear diary.

Free rides on public transport.

Abolition of library fines.

No charge if you dial th wrong number.



#### **Rationale No. 4 (Footnote to Resolution 17):**

At the risk of being classed a traitor by the anti-elitist art-as-welfare lobby, as part of the Art & Working Life program of the Australia Council I would like to propose the position of Artist-in-Residence to the Department of Prime Minister and Cabinet. Before the flip dismissal of court jester or suburban DeBono is accepted it would be interesting to speculate as to what would happen if either of these job descriptions were realized. Instead of being conceptual hostage to Lenin's pronouncements on using the best of the old forms, we may turn a few corners, or at least generate a few metaphors – if not grammars. Input into the National Language Policy. Machiavelli you must remember was a chef and poet. Observing both the lessons from 1968 and 'trickle down', where better to lobby for the admittedly under-represented Arts, where better to analyse the similarities, contradictions and absolute dependencies of those two abstract sports of Art and Politics.

The position to be permanent.

No artist to be employed longer than 1 year nor for less than 3 months.

No Ministerial representation on the selection committee.

## **Rationale for the City Square, Melbourne:**

Do your own bloody rationale.

## **Rationale for the Video Screen, City Square:**

1. Melbourne is probably the most cosmopolitan city in the world – ie in what has been for it's full 200 years the most highly urbanised culture ever, we got more languages – let alone dialects – than you name it.
2. Australian English – based on slang and back-chat – is grammatically very fluid.
3. While the video and acoustic resolution in the square are ideally suited to language, they are not much use for anything else.
4. Geothe, Alliance, La Boite, RMIT Computer Science, LaTrobe, Melbourne, National Gallery, AAV, VCA, SEC, Community Welfare have all promised in kind support at one stage or another.
5. It's there.
6. For all the work done on free-flow and access of/to information there has been little or no work done on ways of putting information together. Grammar. And to generate new grammatical and logical forms you need a focus for popular activity. You need community input. Run the video 12 – 2, 4 – 8 with an easily accessed public interface. Run the speakers (3 acoustic islands in a broader stereo field) all day.
7. Do your own bloody rationale.

## **Rationale for getting up in the morning:**

Trade is the mechanical broadcast of form: Economics is about the communication of meaning: Language is about making sense: y can't flog credit to a corpse.

the news is just a capital joke – the-take-y-hat-n-pants-n-go-home theory of knowledge doin form as lazy credit, ads for an outmoded form of exploitation.

a narrative is a metaphor with its hands up tho pushin know-so don make a coz, retrospective APC arm-pits crotch

too stuck up t handicap th furniture or cards

'nobody tells me nothin' th bastard swears

skite sulk sucker stick it up y jumper

peas please onions bit a mush lets hear it for a bit a shush

so ask no questions tell no lies pitcher for a winda handle on th eyes

I don care who stuffed th crock I'll back a sickie gainst th clock

coz form is got an outside don make it right but

– y wouldn have no mining if th fridge wz fucked

Reason is for vicims – why is why you lose:

too bad like a hole in th head

too bad like a nazi



## **Rationale for mirrors:**

The Australia Council's aggressive pursuit of mediocrity is not in and of itself a bad thing. It does maintain our links to a subscriber magazine culture (Japanese, German, American ...). It does mean that overseas success is exploitable in Australia. It does maintain a surrogate free expression/free enterprise model. It does guarantee a market. It does mean we can compete. Otherwise it don't mean nothin at all. Whatever is peculiarly Australian – conceptually, historically, tactically – aint on ('less of course it's been homogenised as nostalgia, cute, antipodean). Whatever we can we can't. The irony of this of course consists in the fact that conceptual Australianness is of some historical note in the art market scheme of things. But this is probably delinquent third world envy so who cares. It ain't our job description to be social worker to the art mafia slicksters. Nor, I might add to do the homework for the bureaucrats. They can say what they want about bricolage coz they ain heard of makin do. Too True. Don' mind th bloody bankers, fuck em.

## **rationale for eggs for breakfast:**

OK so voice resonates in the brain and effects hormones and chemical bonding and resonates internally in the body effecting organs, acupuncture meridians and the like and muzak and noise and biomusic and then there's auras (aural) as unresolved futures – speech as the physiology and orchestration of time-space (speech as th morphic resonance of sense?) – but to say therefore that grammar is a sub-set of diet is taking it a bit far. It's like protein synthesis and 3D sound-based languages – like yr basically reinventing speech – y may as well concentrate on impregnating music into chewing gum so y could chew y way thru Mantovani or have language lollies or what the hell do you think coffee is?

## **Rationale for an opera:**

so bloody classic was a yiddle bushranger Teddy th Jewboy  
snappy dresser whos brother ran th Hobart Mercury – Murdoch  
he werent but when they wanted to run Israel in th Kimberleys  
– those old stalinists 30s or 40s – who knows – like a reformist  
sayin please t th traitor makes th boss n a whatjamacallit what  
some capital called wimp ain no nip t rerun profit on the bouge  
tht might as well too bad as cops n robbers on th til fr take sbeen  
had like bad nuff

a conchy drip th fills me system wif  
dollin crime out as an art abstract  
a theory of th line that  
stacks up odds on jam n thinks  
because he am that ares an aint  
atll wrap your Descartes up in a box of paint

## **Rationale for habits:**

- : stickin out like coupla yes men in th know
- : my social worker fido is a queer from outer space by Do You Mind
- : credit is a chemist bust
- : noughts & crosses (networking) is argument by ad
- : a composer is a conceptual dobber on th make
- : pushin luck into a lens



## **Rationale for a Relationship Between Artists & ( ) Community:**

1. Excellence. We hear a lot about excellence these days. It's a problem. Excellence is a subscriber's reality. Fashion. The rhetoric of self description. Excellence, like torture, is a tool of the state and all we can do is strike. The right to silence; a silence from which the only inference that can be drawn is competence. A failed tautology. No package: it is terror that conjugates as a gloss, but because Australia is an out-of-town tryout we can model two-up as a logic and bribe the set. It's just too bad.
2. The Right to Not Know (a genus of the priviledge of making sense) – introduced at the demise of Star Chamber, 1641.
3. Risk (X – for insurers read 'probability') was introduced as a class product of patent law.
4. 'So what' is post-modern 'know-how'.
5. Nod. We are interested in the art we don't like, yet.

## **Rationale for something else:**

1. The US Government don't know where 84% of the money is.
2. If the Defence Department had saved its money it could now buy everything in the United States cept the land.
3. Americans love flowers.
4. Just as bloody well.

If capitalism was modelled on the orchestra and post-modernism was modelled on the bank (only hypocrites explain and/or apologise) why is this late?

**Rationale for Australia missing the information bus. It's too late to plug into data. It's how you put it together. (Infra) Structure. The futurologists say that in the year 2000 the only people who'll be employed are artists because they're the ones who are trained systems thinkers. The next industry is culture. We can run culturalism in Australia as an out-of-town tryout (as we ran monetarism, plastic money, Japanese computers ...). We can also make an economic killing:**

I think it was Satie said he regarded anyone interested in his work after his death as a necrophiliac.

1. the butcher is the skin of the dog.
2. hush money rhymes (or, work intrudes into matter, is critical towards its conditions ... creativity can't even make a fetish out of theft).

